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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Section III.E / III.I.1-5

I believe that this is an excellent first step to the opening of the
protocols used by Windows (eg SMB/etc). The difficulty lies in that their
are very few operating systems competing for the desktop these days. One
that is the freely available Linux system. It would seem to me that the
restrictions to be provided by Microsoft would limit the availability of
details that would allow the Samba group to develop their freely available
software after getting this information.

Microsoft has such market clout now that its protocols are the standards.
Further it tends to embrace and extend any current standard to its own
desire, hindering efforts at interoperability between other operating
systems and its own. Perhaps a more far reaching idea would be that
Microsoft open all of its document formatting standards (eg Microsoft
Office) which should help ensure the development of a host of competing
products in the industry.

It is my personal belief that these 'Microsoft Standards' (if you will)
should be fully open and available to the community at large. I believe
this would only help to spur competition in the industry that is currently
lacking.

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